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## VIRTUAL REALITY IS REALLY HERE What VR in 2017 Looks Like

One of the biggest tech stories to come out of 2016 was the emergence of virtual reality technology. Microsoft took the tech world by storm when it announced a line of VR headsets with built-in tracking sensors, starting at the remarkably affordable price of \$299.

The coolest part about this particular virtual reality option is its "six degrees of freedom" tracking. In many cases, virtual reality is just the 360-degree panorama. But with six degrees of freedom, the tracking system can also see when you're moving through space! That's the main difference between the pricey VR options like Oculus Rift and the cheap entries.



These headsets are designed to work with a Windows 10 computer, which

makes this technology accessible to millions of potential users who may not have a specialized platform like a game console.

Competition is heating up among the major players in virtual reality, which is great for consumers and tech enthusiasts. Along with virtual reality, augmented reality is continuing to develop, and these technologies are predicted to make up a combined \$150 billion market by 2020. Not only will AR and VR transform entertainment, but they'll also have a dramatic effect on fields like health care, education, sports, and tourism.

Expect to see virtual reality truly enter the mainstream this year. Looking back, 2016 was the first year where virtual reality systems were widely available for consumers to purchase, as well as for developers and content creators to work with. If virtual reality is today's television revolution, we've just hit the era of full color.

Get ready to experience the sights in faraway places, socialize in a virtual space, play immersive games, complete job training in private, and so much more!

## THE POWER OF TEAMWORK Working Together to Get Results

The spring sports season is underway, and Johnny and Nora are busy with their soccer, baseball, and basketball teams. I like my kids to be involved in team sports because they have to learn to work with others and play as a team.

I feel very fortunate that I work with such a great team here at the law firm. It might be my name on the door, but every single employee contributes to making the office what it is. With that in mind, I wanted to take some time to celebrate the terrific team we have here.

Kate is our new administrative and legal assistant, and she makes our office run like clockwork. From answering the phones to pulling documents, she makes our clients' and lawyers' lives much easier. She's often the first voice a client will hear, so she prides herself on making people feel welcome. Her tireless work ethic and upbeat attitude make everyday a joy.

Since starting here as a law clerk, Patrick Cummings has moved to a great leadership role at the firm. You'll hear more about the big event in Patrick's career a little later on

**"It might be my name on the door, but every single employee contributes to making the office what it is."**

in this issue. Nathan Marchese has worked as a contract lawyer for us over the years and provides our clients with a huge boost based on his extensive experience and expertise.

In addition to these great folks, I am



very thankful for all the talented people who have worked here over the years to zealously represent our clients. Ronda Johnson has taken her management experience to Renaissance Maintenance, where she is now the operations manager. If you need paving, snow removal, or facilities management, Ronda and Renaissance are your best call. Kathy Crane launched her photography studio after leaving our firm. When we have photographs to take, we call Kathy (and you should too — she is terrific!). Our former paralegal Laura Vallejo was the key person for us on a number of great results. Laura is now a senior analyst at the National Futures Association. We are humbled to be associated with these wonderful people. While we are always sad to see someone go, we are even happier to see them thrive.

*- Joe Shannon*

Every season comes with its own set of retail deals. One month, winter clothes are a steal. Another month, it's kitchen appliances. When you strategize your purchases throughout the year, you can save a ton of money — and spring is no exception. Here are a few items you can save on this April:

**SUMMER VACATIONS**

April is a great time to book air travel for the summer months, especially for travel during the peak vacation months of July and August. To maximize your savings, select departure days for Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. And for *even more* savings, book flights with evening departure times (generally after 4 p.m.). You can save hundreds of dollars per ticket — and this applies to domestic and international travel.

**VACUUM CLEANERS**

Thanks to the timeless tradition known as spring cleaning, many retailers are slashing prices on vacuums and other cleaning tools. Just like other gadgets, retailers need to make room for this year's models, which typically debut in the months following April. Sure, you'll be buying last year's model, but the savings make it totally worth it. Plus, it's a vacuum, not a car, so who cares?

**ATHLETIC SHOES**

Most of us don't buy athletic shoes during the winter months. That means many shoe manufacturers are in the middle of a sales slump. To kick off spring, shoe makers and retailers run a lot of sales to get you in their doors. Be on the lookout for promotions, coupons, and other deals at your favorite shoe stores and on your favorite brands.

**TVS & ELECTRONICS**

New TVs and electronics hit store shelves in March and April. And it's all thanks to CES, the Consumer Electronics Show, which happens every January in Las Vegas. There, the year's latest and greatest in tech make their debut. Then, once retailers get the new batch of gadgets, they need to unload last year's inventory. This equals huge savings for you. Whether you're in the market for a TV, a Blu-ray player, or a sound system, you'll find deals throughout the electronics department. One word of caution: Skip the PCs and laptops — the best prices on those come later in the year!



# JUSTICE FOR AVOIDABLE TRAGEDIES

## Representing Mesothelioma Patients

All instances of serious disease are tragic, but there are some diseases no person should ever have to endure. Such is the case with mesothelioma, a completely avoidable type of cancer caused by asbestos. Asbestos was banned in 1989, which means any exposure caused by products manufactured after that date is the result of negligence. In cases like these, companies need to be held accountable for their crimes.

Shannon Law Group has a wealth of experience representing clients diagnosed with mesothelioma, including a very personal case. A childhood friend of Mr. Shannon contacted him when the friend's father found out he had the disease. The father was a mechanic who specialized in the maintenance of large trucks. Given the time of his diagnosis, it was clear that his exposure was the result of irresponsible parts companies using asbestos illegally.

As companies in the wrong will often do, the parts manufacturers made no effort to accept culpability for their misdeeds. Luckily, our client kept meticulous records of every part he had ever worked with. Combing through his library led us to identify the exact products that exposed our client to asbestos. With this information, we knew that we would achieve a just, favorable result.

Even today, the prognosis for those diagnosed with mesothelioma is not bright. Most patients live only nine to 24 months after the cancer is detected. In this case, our client sadly passed away before a verdict was rendered. His meticulous information, though, proved invaluable in achieving the deserved result and providing some closure to his family.

Nobody's family deserves to suffer a tragedy like this. Companies that purposefully use asbestos, a known carcinogen, must pay for the unnecessary pain they knowingly cause. If you or a loved one is suffering from mesothelioma, call Shannon Law Group today. We will work with you to find those responsible. Forcing negligent companies to pay for their actions will help make mesothelioma a disease of the past.



# A STELLAR DEBUT

## Pat's First Solo Trial

For a trial lawyer, there's no bigger milestone than your first solo jury trial. An attorney at Shannon Law Group, Pat Cummings recently took on his first personal injury case in court. The result was a victory for our client and a great first experience for Pat. His passion for defending people and eagerness to learn the intricacies of personal injury law put him in the position to succeed — and that's exactly what he did.

This case began with an auto accident in Lisle, Illinois. Our client was riding in a limousine when he was rammed by another vehicle. The other vehicle was 100 percent at fault for the accident, and our client sustained injuries. As is normal in these situations, we spoke with the insurance company in order to draft a settlement. The number they came



back to us with before the trial was \$17,200, hardly fair given the damages our client suffered. When discrepancies are this large, we have an obligation to our clients to take the case to trial. Pat was excited to get in the courtroom and demonstrate why the settlement offer was unacceptable.

The trial took five days split over two weeks at the Daley Center in Chicago. Pat detailed the client's damages and explained to the jury why the insurance company's offer was insufficient. In the courtroom, Pat was confident, prepared, and eloquent. He stood up for our client and connected with the jury on a human level. Honestly, it looked and sounded like he was an experienced, veteran attorney.

After about 10 hours of deliberation, the jury returned with a verdict: \$203,000 in favor of our client. That's over 11 times what the insurance company had offered. The jury clearly felt that the insurance company hadn't proposed a just settlement, and it was Pat's hard work that helped them realize that. We are so proud of Pat's first solo trial, and we are sure that he'll have many more victories to come. Congratulations, Pat!

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## Luck-of-the-Irish Rice Krispies Treats

### Ingredients

- 6 cups Rice Krispies
- ¼ cup margarine
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½-1 teaspoon green food coloring
- 1 (10-ounce) package mini marshmallows
- Chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil

### Directions

1. Line a large baking pan with foil and grease with a nonstick spray.
2. Melt margarine in a large pot on low heat.
3. Add marshmallows and stir constantly until melted.
4. Remove from heat.
5. Add vanilla extract and food coloring; stir until smooth.
6. Add cereal quickly to the melted marshmallow mixture, and stir until well coated.
7. Press into the ready greased baking pan with a buttered spatula. Set aside and cool.
8. Cut into bars or use a shamrock-shaped cookie cutter to make the treats especially festive.
9. Garnish with gold wrapped candy coins.

Recipe inspired by Food.com.